

Message Text

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67

ACTION EB-11

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 IO-13 ISO-00 AGR-20 CEA-02 CIAE-00

COME-00 DODE-00 FRB-02 H-03 INR-10 INT-08 L-03 LAB-06

NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-03 RSC-01 AID-20 CIEP-02 SS-15

STR-08 TAR-02 TRSE-00 USIA-15 PRS-01 OMB-01 AF-10

ARA-16 EA-11 NEA-10 OIC-04 DRC-01 /234 W

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R 051232Z SEP 73

FM USMISSION EC BRUSSELS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5691

INFO AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS UNN

AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN

AMEMBASSY DUBLIN

AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY LUXEMBOURG

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY ROME

USMISSION GENEVA

USMISSION OECD PARIS UNN

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E. O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: ZTRD, GATT, US, EC

SUBJ: ARTICLE XXIV:6 NEGOTIATIONS

REF: (A) STATE 169850 AND EMBASSY REPLIES THERETO;

(B) EC BRUSSELS 4924

1. SUMMARY. APPARENTLY THERE WERE NO MAJOR CHANGES
OF POSITION AT THE SEPTEMBER 4 EC WORKING GROUP MEETING
ON THE XXIV:6 NEGOTIATIONS. THE WORKING GROUP WILL

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NOW PRESENT A REPORT TO THE COMMITTEE OF PERM REPS WHICH IS SCHEDULED

TO MEET ON SEPTEMBER 11. THE WORKING GROUP MAY HAVE ANOTHER MEETING OR MEETINGS THEREAFTER IN PREPARATION FOR THE SEPTEMBER 20 EC COUNCIL MEETING IN BRUSSELS. FRANCE WAS THE ONLY MEMBER STATE TO MENTION RECENT US DEMARCHES. END SUMMARY.

2. ACCORDING TO A SOURCE WHO ATTENDED THE WORKING GROUP MEETING, THE MEMBER STATES RAN THROUGH THE EC COMMISSION'S LIST OF THIRTY ITEMS WITH NO MAJOR CHANGES IN NATIONAL POSITIONS. THE FRENCH DELEGATION HAD ONLY PARTIAL GUIDANCE. ITALY CONTINUED TO OPPOSE CONCESSIONS ON CITRUS AND TOBACCO, AS EXPECTED. THE FRENCH SAID THAT SOME CONCESSION ON TOBACCO IN "NOT EXCLUDED" BUT CHANGED THEIR FORMAL POSITION ON KRAFT PAPER FROM A RESERVATION TO OUTRIGHT OPPOSITION. THE UK CONTINUED ITS POSITION ON VEHICLES.

3. ACCORDING TO OUR SOURCES, ONLY THE FRENCH DELEGATION MENTIONED THE RECENT US DEMARCHES OVERTLY (REFTEL A). MOUTON, COMMERCIAL COUNSELOR OF THE FRENCH PERM DEL, SAID THAT FRANCE HAD RECEIVED A VIGOROUS US DEMARCHE, WAS TAKING ACCOUNT OF US VIEWS IN DEVELOPING ITS POSITION, AND WAS AWARE THAT THE US HAD APPROACHED OTHER EC GOVERNMENTS.

4. HIJZEN, THE EC COMMISSION SPOKESMAN, MADE WHAT OUR SOURCE CHARACTERIZED AS AN OBSCURE REFERENCE TO CEREALS. HIJZEN, APPARENTLY IN RESPONSE TO A FRENCH COMMENT, SAID THAT THE HANDLING OF CEREALS IN RELATION TO XXIV:6 MUST STILL BE DECIDED BY THE EC COUNCIL. HE APPARENTLY SAID OR IMPLIED THAT IT IS TOO SOON TO SAY DEFINITELY THAT THE COMMUNITY HAS NO ARTICLE XXIV:6 DEBT ON CEREALS. COMMENT: HIJZEN MAY HAVE TAKEN THIS POSITION IN AN EFFORT TO MINIMIZE MEMBER STATE RESERVATIONS ON OTHER ITEMS. (SEE REFTEL B AND EC BRUSSELS 4266).

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5. THE WORKING GROUP IS TO MAKE A REPORT TO THE COMMITTEE OF PERM REPS IN THE NEXT FEW DAYS. IF THE FRENCH HAVE MEANWHILE RECEIVED FULL INSTRUCTIONS, THE REPORT WILL INCLUDE THEIR COMPLETE POSITION. THE PERM REPS ARE EXPECTED TO MEET ON SEPTEMBER 11. THIS MIGHT BE FOLLOWED BY ONE OR MORE ADDITIONAL WORKING GROUP MEETINGS IN PREPARATION FOR THE SEPTEMBER 20 EC COUNCIL SESSION.

6. JUST PRIOR TO THE WORKING GROUP MEETING, WE
APPROACHED HIJZEN TO ADVISE HIM OF OUR PREVIOUS
DISCUSSION WITH SOAMES' CHEF DE CABINET (REFTEL B)

WE REVIEWED THE ENTIRE POSITION WITH HIM IN DETAIL,
INCLUDING THE POLITICAL IMPORTANCE AS WELL AS THE
REASONABLENESS OF OUR WILLINGNESS --UNDER CERTAIN
CIRCUMSTANCES --TO STRETCH OUT NEGOTIATIONS ON
GRAINS. HIJZEN HAD NO PARTICULAR REACTION IN THE
DISCUSSION WITH US BUT, ACCORDING TO OUR SOURCE, HIJZEN
PERFORMED FAIRLY WELL IN TRYING TO MOVE THINGS ALONG
IN THE WORKING GROUP SESSION.

7. WE STILL HOPE TO MEET WITH EC COMMISSIONER GUNDELACH
ON THIS SUBJECT BEFORE HE DEPARTS FOR TOKYO.
HARTMAN

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